

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

----- 016216

R 221428Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4562

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: GOE FONMIN ON ERITREA

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH GOE FONMIN KIFLE MAY 21  
AMB INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PROGRESS TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH THE ERITREAN INSURGENTS, OR ON A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE GOE.
2. ON PREVIOUS DAY CANADIAN AMB SAID KIFLE HAD TOLD HIM THAT A  
PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE ABOUT GOE ATTITUDE TOWARD  
NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, KIFLE TOLD AMB HUMMEL THAT GOE "IS CONSIDERING  
"

SUCH A STATEMENT AND NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE. THE STATEMENT  
WOULD GIVE GOE VIEWS ON A "CONCEPT FOR NEGOTIATIONS". IT WOULD HAVE  
SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE "HISTORICAL PARTICULARITY" OF ERITREA,  
BUT IT WOULD ALSO SAY THERE COULD NOT BE A SOLUTION PURELY FOR  
ERITREA; IT WOULD HAVE TO BE APPLICABLE TO OTHER PROVINCES ALSO.  
THE GOE INTENDED TO CARRY OUT A GENERAL POLICY OF  
DECENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVINCIAL ENTITIES, AND WITHIN  
THIS FRAMEWORK THERE COULD BE SOME ACCOMMODATION TO ERITREAN  
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DESIRES.

3. AS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, THEY ARE "STALLED" AT PRESENT BECAUSE THE VARIOUS INSURGENT FACTIONS CANNOT GET TOGETHER ON A COMMON APPROACH. SUDAN PRES NIMEIRI ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO HAD INVITED VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE INSURGENTS FOR DISCUSSIONS BUT LITTLE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. NOT ONLY WERE THERE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, BUT ALSO A GENERATION GAP BETWEEN THE YOUNGER PEOPLE ACTUALLY DOING THE FIGHTING AND THE OLDER MEN WHO WERE BASED IN VARIOUS ARAB CAPITALS AND WHO HAD COMPLETELY LOST TOUCH WITH REAL EVENTS IN ERITREA. THE GOE DESIRED THE CONTINUATION OF SUDANESE EFFORTS, AND HAD SENT A DELEGATION A MONTH AGO TO TALK WITH NIMEIRI. THE GOE HOPED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH INSURGENTS, WHEN THEY OCCUR, WOULD BE SECRET, TO AVOID THE EMPTY POSTURING THAT OPEN CONTACTS WOULD PRODUCE.

4. COMMENT. THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT IS NEW IN THIS . A PUBLIC STATEMENT CLARIFYING GOE DESIRE TO HAVE TALKS WITH THE INSURGENTS COULD BE HELPFUL, BUT IF IT CONTAINS THE RIGID LINE THAT THERE CAN BE NO MORE AUTONOMY FOR ERITREA THAN FOR OTHER PROVINCES, IT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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